

## THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

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## ALL AMERICA IS AROUSED

It will be a mighty hard thing for a St. Joseph or Northwest Missouri person, after the exhibition of patriotism shown here on registration day, to doubt the aroused patriotic spirit of the American people—for it is aroused.

And to see that it is aroused it was but necessary for one to visit any of the polling places and watch the thousands of young men who presented themselves there without display or ostentation and after registering their names return quietly to the scenes of their daily labor. That practically all of the eligibles in St. Joseph and all over Northwest Missouri registered their names is shown by the returns and is an earnest of the love of country shown by the young men.

A feature of the registration was that there was no disorder reported from this city or any point in this section, and there was scarcely a manifestation of discontent, unwillingness or a sullen, rebellious spirit. Everywhere, on the contrary, was the revealing of a deep-seated love of country, a reverence for the flag, a willingness that was eagerness to fight for its cause. Without any sense of compulsion, without any hanging back, these young men were prompt and proud to offer their services, and with their services their lives.

And while these young men registered and tendered their services to their country the older men were also busy. They could not go themselves, but they were raising the money which Uncle Sam needs to equip the fighters and support them while they are gone. And these older men were no more staggered over the appeal for millions upon millions, than were the younger men by the call to the colors. The tremendous success of the Liberty bond subscription which closed yesterday showed what the older ones could do.

And at every point on that historic day—everywhere where men congregated—a splendid patriotic sentiment was in evidence. There was no show of bluster and brag, there were no "hymns of hate," but there was universally displayed the quiet, calm, determined, confident spirit that means America will fight unflinchingly, that America will contribute without stint, and that America will win.

It was a bad, bad day for the speakers and the prophets of evil. Their forecasts were made ridiculous. America is alive, alive to the finger tip! Americans are worthy their traditions and their heritage. They love their country because it is a country worth loving. They are ready to die for its ideals, because they are ideals worth dying for.

History is only repeating itself. These great, free United States never were confronted with a crisis but they rose to it grandly. They never were confronted with a duty but they discharged it to the last full measure of devotion. This is not a nation of slackers. It is a nation of freemen, who know their rights and knowing dare maintain them.

## THIS IS NO CLASS WAR

There is a certain class of newspapers in this country—and there are some of them in this territory whose whole business at present seems to be to appeal to class prejudice by asserting that the poor man will have to do the fighting, and for that reason the rich should pay the cost of the war. It is not alone those of socialistic tendencies which indulge in such talk but other papers which denounce socialism who are thus endeavoring to arouse class discontent and class feeling by denouncing the government for not taxing the rich man more heavily and the poor man not at all.

The people should know that America is the country of all its citizens, regardless of whether they are rich or poor, or well-to-do.

And it is not the country of any one class, but of all classes.

And, it is not for the poor alone to do the fighting or for the rich alone to pay the taxes. There is no place for slackers in either department or at either end of the line.

The government makes no discrimination between rich and poor when it comes to military service. The rich man's son was required to register for the draft the same as the poor man's son. If there is any discrimi-

nation it is in favor of the poor man, for the poor young man is more likely to be engaged in necessary labor, from which he cannot be spared, than is the rich man's son.

The government does not ask if a man is rich or poor, prominent or humble. It asks only if he is a citizen fit for military service and not indispensably needed at home.

The problem of the paying of taxes and the fixing of levies to pay the cost of the war is now being worked out. It is not possible that a perfect law will be passed, but it will be as nearly just as the combined wisdom of the president and the congress can make it.

Taxes should be paid by all citizens equitably in proportion to their means and their ability to pay. The fairest form, perhaps, is the income tax. The pending bill proposes that, of the largest possible incomes, as much as 62 per cent shall be taken by the government in taxation. It proposes that the million dollar income shall be taxed 47 per cent, the \$100,000 income 15 per cent, the \$50,000 income 13 1/2 per cent, the \$30,000 income 12 per cent, and that the married man with an income of less than \$2,000 shall pay no income tax whatever.

Most of the remaining taxes are to be raised by taxes on liquor and tobacco, luxuries, pleasures and amusements of various sorts, and on the profits of corporations with more than \$5,000 earnings. About all the tax that will be directly levied on the poor man, and which he cannot easily avoid paying, would be those on sugar, coffee and tea.

While there may be, and doubtless is, abundant room for improvement, surely there is here no discrimination against the poor and in favor of the rich, or against the only moderately rich in favor of the very rich.

It is right to tax wealth heavily by comparison with the tax levied on poverty, and this newspaper has always so contended. But it is not right, in this war for our democratic liberties and rights, that any citizen, protected by our country's laws, enjoying its benefits, and capable of earning a living under them, should be permitted to go scot free of taxation. No self-respecting and patriotic citizen, poor or rich, would ask it. In the army and behind the army each worthy citizen is eager for the privilege of doing something for his country.

And in this connection and at this time when the question of tax and revenue is foremost this newspaper desires to say a few words of an almost personal character. The question of increased taxation for this newspaper and all of the other newspapers is now before Congress. Many of the papers in this section have sent vigorous protests to their congressmen and senators while some of the more radical of the publishers, all of whom until their pocket books were in danger of being touched, were insistently and rabidly rampant for war have posted off to Washington there to present their protests in person and to lobby against the imposition of any further taxation on them under the specious plea that the newspapers have held up the President's hands and advertised the Liberty loan, and have done so much that they should not be further taxed.

This paper has neither asked its congressmen or senators or the government to exempt it from any special assessments, and it will not do so, and it believes that the plea made by congress in the name of the press by those who have taken it upon themselves to speak for the press are a gross misrepresentation of the attitude of many of the newspapers and only represent the selfish views of a few of the publishers of the big publications. This paper will cheerfully assume its share of whatever added taxation the congress may see fit to impose as its share of the war burden and will feel that in so doing it is only bearing what is right and proper, and just.

## OUR AMATEUR GARDENERS DOING WELL

The amateur backyard farmer's garden is different this year than formerly—for it is a fact that the aforesaid amateur gardener is after a crop this time.

When there was no war trouble last year the backyard garden was just a pretty little plaything—in fact it was closely related to the sky-rocket for it started out with a hurrah and flourish and came sneaking down quite like, all shrivelled up. Its proprietor cared for it most jealously until the novelty wore off and then retired to the veranda for the rest of the summer, much to the glee of the potato bugs, et al.

But now the home boys are gardening on the square. They are rooting around in that little patch to see how much human fodder can be coax-ed therefrom, and an insidious little weedlet is as welcome there as would be a wild African boar in the living room. The family hoo, scandalized at the tasks imposed upon it, knows no rest.

Dissembling grocers, smilingly en-

couraging everybody to garden, to garden of their hearts' content, have banked on the bottom falling out of the campaign, it is said, but if that is the case, they are likely to be disappointed. The only bottom that has fallen out would seem to be that of the heavens, from which had until a few days ago poured an almost continual stream of rain for the past six weeks. Rain means earth to be loosened from about the plants, and ambitious bugs and things to be combated, but the amateur agriculturist has thus far shown no inclination to fall back into previously prepared positions.

War is having a mighty effect upon our productiveness and the desire therefore, and about the best evidence of it is this same city man strenuously tilling the soil allotted him.

With all his troubles, he should think of the monster task fallen upon the real farmer, who deals with acres instead of feet, and upon whom really hangs the fate of this nation in its greatest conflict.

The man with the hoe and the man with the tractor gang-plow should respect each other, we think, for this time they are both striving to the same end and for the same boss—Uncle Sam.

## WHAT MUST HE THINK?

What can a German think when he faces the fact that practically the whole world is against the policies that the Kaiser's government has been so relentlessly pursuing?

If he can reason with sanity he cannot but come to one conclusion—and that is that there must be something wholly wrong or all mankind would not array itself against the Kaiser and the men by whom he is surrounded. What is wrong? Many thinkers have pointed to one thing that seems to them to be the cause of it all. It is the perpetuation in a slightly altered form of the doctrine that "the king can do no wrong," which is a necessary corollary of the notion that kings rule by "divine right." In its modern form it appears in the assertion that governments are not bound by the universal moral code which applies to individuals. A government may commit murder, kill innocent women and children, take by force the private property of the inhabitants of a whole nation, deprive whole populations of the means of life and let them die of starvation unless they are fed by others. It may be done without condemnation by an educated people—if it is by order of the "state." The whole of mankind outside of the Teutonic people have revolted against such ideas.

The trouble with Germany is that under the leadership of false philosophers the "civilized" has been educated out of the people who have lived under its rule and they have created a monster which the whole world has arisen to overthrow. It is an ideal monster, but more terrible because of that fact, and the war must go on until the monster is driven from the face of the earth. It is not possible that this monster can defeat all the rest of mankind. There is hardly a nation that has not protested, although some still claim to be neutral.

## INFLATION AND INCREASED PRICES

It has been held before the people for years that the combined financial wisdom of the country centered in New York—but it doesn't—although the New York bankers still are obsessed with that idea. The fact is that some of those New York "financiers" know no more about political economy than they did twenty years ago. The bankers of the East want "inflation" and some of them are now openly advocating it, despite the fact that another increase in the volume of money would not in the least help the country to bear the war burden, but in place add to it and the additional burden would fall almost wholly on the wage-earners, for an increase in money would only increase prices, and wages never rise in proportion to an increase in prices, and this would make the war debt tremendously larger for the cost of the war would increase just as prices rose. As an example of the wisdom of these New York financiers read this little gem from President Willard King of the Columbia Trust Co., who says:

"It is quite clear to me that we must deliberately create an inflation in order to make it possible for the national government to finance this war. The current savings of the United States are not nearly adequate for the purposes. Not merely has there always been inflation during great wars, but there must especially be inflation today because the budget of a great war now runs into such vast figures."

This country can easily finance the war even if it lasts for three or four years. An assessment of 1 per cent on the wealth of this country would produce annually \$2,500,000,000. There has been an inflation already caused by the importation of a billion dollars in gold which has almost doubled prices and the government has taken what action was pos-

sible to prevent any further inflation. The lending of vast sums of money to the Allies will prevent further importations of gold. The gold that is now here will pay for their purchases instead of their importing more. The rapid handling of the money paid for Liberty bonds, which is to be left in the banks, will have an effect on prices, and will have a tendency to increase them. That of itself will be more additional inflation than is good for the people.

## THE FLAG AND ANKLES

There are already too many women who are urging the American flag to advertise their patriotism in steps in violation of a federal statute—not all women, but as before stated, too many.

Shapely ankles and other features of a comely damsel's nether limbs are attractive enough, we surmise, without using an embroidered replica of Old Glory on the silken tansy to call attention to the same. With the present length of skirts, the maidens need have no fear that mankind will not discover dainty pumps and what they presume to cover. They need no display advertising, certainly not the Star Spangled Banner, to secure an audience.

Flags on collars, flags on handkerchiefs, flags on cuffs, flags on neckties, flags on socks—and now flags on the legs, seductive female hose! What next, delicious evolver of fashions—what next?

It is the perhaps humble opinion of this newspaper that persons who wear our national colors on their feet, necks, wrists and toilet articles do not thereby insure that they have the true glory of that emblem truly stamped upon their hearts.

The agricultural bureau says that the corn crop of this part of the state was hurt last week by the cold weather. Just wait—it will be like the early wheat stories sent out by that bureau made up of men who sit in comfortable offices and have reports sent to them—the corn crop of Missouri is all right—and will show it when it is gathered.

The windy city at the Kaw's mouth is still long on wind—and that is about all. Take their subscription to the Liberty loan as a striking instance. The noisy people down there subscribed less than one-half in proportion to what St. Joseph did—and we made no fuss about it, either.

Teddy has asked police protection from the curious who on Sundays peer into his Sagamore property. This is the first time that Teddy has tried to get away from the public gaze—what has happened?

The bureau of engraving has seen to it that those Liberty bonds shall be things handsome to look at and the treasury department that they shall be handsome to think about.

Sixteen million more bushels of wheat this year than last year, and more oats, barley and rye, to say nothing yet of the corn crop—looks as if we might get along.

If you did not subscribe for a Liberty bond you still have the opportunity to do your country a service by going to any of your banks and buying one or more.

"The British and French offensive is now definitely concluded," Hindenburg wrote the Kaiser several days ago. That Hindenburg line has certainly been erased.

No doubt when those American destroyers appeared to escort his ship into Liverpool, General Pershing felt that it was just like getting back home.

St. Joseph did its duty in the matter of the Liberty Loan—as it always does when the occasion demands. St. Joseph people never shirked their duty.

According to that handbook offer the American troops may not know any "bloomin'" French, but they will know some Blumenthal French.

It is nearly time for the third chapter of the police war—this will be forthcoming on time and it will be a riotous chapter at that.

Perhaps those Minnesota fellows who went to the registration places in boats thought they were headed for the United States navy.

If Grand Duke Nicholas has been caught in a royalist plot in Russia he might as well prepare to be the late Grand Duke Nicholas.

Since King George talked to General Pershing so long it must be he was telling him how his potatoes were coming on.

It is no time to observe the principle of seniority in the army or anywhere else if seniority holds back the man of capacity.

Missouri fell short of the registration expected by the national govern-

ment, but that was not on account of a failure to register. It was the fact that the government overestimated the number that were capable of registration.

General Goethals is used to slides, and Messrs. Eustis and Clark have found that he knows how to cause one suddenly.

Dealing in egg futures has been prohibited, but this doesn't mean that you must not set a hen or fill an incubator.

Of course that chap who registered twice should be made to do two times as much fighting as the ordinary man.

St. Joseph celebrated Flag day with an earnestness that but further discloses the patriotism of this great city.

Joffre is called the God-father of the expeditionary American army. It would be awkward to say God-"papa."

That almost 100 per cent registration shows that there's lots of 100 per cent Americanism in the country.

Missouri is picking 12,000,000 quarts of strawberries. Nothing short about this crop except shortcake.

We'll "carry on," as the English say, and we'll carry out and carry forward and carry through.

You cannot find a single point by which to criticize St. Joseph's rally to the Liberty bond front.

The German U-boat found that picking up a Silvershell by the sea-side is no child's play.

It is not a pure food bill that congress is concerned with this time, but a sure food bill.

You can do yourself and the cause of humanity great good by helping the Red Cross.

We do not have to wait for any back county this time to know the general result.

However, it was just a plain old shell that the U-boat got from the Silvershell.

It was not expected that congress would take so long to digest those food bills.

Being unwilling to go to the front some fellows have gone to the frontier.

A leak in the navy department is harder to find than a leak in a ship.

The Magnolia and the Silvershell—now let this honor list grow rapidly.

They are going to have dinner ready when the boys arrive in France.

No such thing as a tornado belt. The whole country is the "belt."

They seem to have got up a Chinese puzzle this time that is one.

Greece has now been pushed into the ring—the fighting ring.

You may fire when you are ready, Pershing.

## What the Missouri Editors Are Saying

## Time to Do That Now

It is time to strafe the fly, even though that intolerant insect has not yet begun its spring drive.—St. Louis Times.

## Like the One Here

A welfare board sometimes means a "fare" well for persons who are in need of such a luxury.—Tarkio Avalanche.

## And All Should Be Jailed

It is not true that the food speculators are all pirates, as some of them are only gamblers.—Worth County Times.

## Pointed in the Right Direction

The English and French celebrate all holidays with fireworks pointed direct at the Germans.—Howell County Gazette.

## The Potato As An Ornament

Now that summer is approaching, the potato blossom will no doubt make its advent as a select article of millinery adornment.—Ravenwood Gazette.

## Some Good "Lowerers" Here

This is also about the season when the river is materially lowered by the quantities of "big" fish which are withdrawn from its waters.—Union Star Herald.

## Kansas Was Noisy and Wind

Without intending to cast an insinuation at any one, we cannot help pointing with pride to the fact that the Missouri registration is 15,000 above the estimate, while we have at least one neighbor state with a much small-

er percentage of people of foreign birth and whose newspapers are daily talking of slackers and evaders of the registration.—Linneus Bulletin.

## He Well Knows It

More than one enthusiastic garden-bent on doing his bit for humanity can reluctantly attest that the cutworm is no patriot this year.—St. Louis Times.

## A Sad Accident at Unionville

A farmer came to town Saturday and bought a quarter's worth of beans. On his way home he stumbled and fell and lost both of them.—Unionville Republican.

## Not If the People Know It

We are terribly afraid that Teddy Roosevelt will never be able to ride into the presidential chair on the backs of our brave U. S. soldier boys.—Milan Standard.

## And Can It Also Can-Can?

Gallatin has a "Can All You Can" club, their line of activity being to encourage by precept and example the conservation of our products.—Jamesport Gazette.

## Are Choice Dog Meat

We suggest, however, that tramps would make excellent dog meat this summer, and would be quite in line with our efforts at national economy. Sic 'em!—Worth County Times.

## And a Few Firecrackers

Brazil is going to expend 26 million dollars in armament and war material. That will buy a couple of pieces of heavy artillery and at least half a dozen shells.—Kansas City Post.

## And We Are All Glad

Grain gamblers who profited on the needs of the poor are losing a lump of their ill-gotten wealth, since wheat took a tumble. Nobody but the gamblers will regret this.—Memphis Democrat.

## Yes—to Do What?

The Russian provisional government has removed General Alexieff as chief of staff because he was lacking in energy and enthusiasm. Energy and enthusiasm to do what?—Kansas City Times.

## Cut It Out at Once

Now that we have a war with Germany let's eliminate that of the clothesline variety. A kind word across the back fence is better than a tilted nose any day.—King City Democrat.

## Know More Than the Farmers

We observe with pleasure that the individuals who have been offering explicit directions to farmers how and when to farm, are versatile. They are now issuing very expressive literature on "How to swat the fly."—Tarkio Avalanche.

## Must Be There in Numbers

One of our exchanges says: "If they have killed as many Germans as it is claimed, and there are enough to continue the war two years as claimed, they must have been packed in Germany like sardines in a can."—Stanberry Owl-Headlight.

## The Ex-Kansas Governor of Missouri

Herbert S. Hadley, former governor of Missouri, has accepted a professorship in the University of Colorado law school. Mr. Hadley announced today. He will move his home from Kansas City to Boulder at once. Mr. Hadley is widely known in republican circles.—Kansas City Times.

## Was Not Worth the Powder

One of the things we are unable to fathom is why Judge Shewalter wasn't jailed along with the rest of his co-laborers in treason. Shewalter was a particeps criminis, in that he was adviser and counselor for the chief offenders, and deserved punishment equally with the others.—Glasgow Missourian.

## The Best and the Meanest

The meanest men in the world are those who have allowed themselves to drift away from their mothers and forget all about them. The best and bravest men in the world are those who have never been so proud as when doing something pleasant for the kind old mother.—Elmo Register.

## A Hard Shock to Germany

The kind of a censorship its extreme advocates want would prevent the publication of the fact that 10 million Americans had registered for military services. Most persons will agree, however, that the shock the news will give in Germany will offset any value it may have as military information.—Kansas City Times.

## Deserved Praise for Francis

The Anti-Conscription conspirators should get just what they worked for is a source of gratification to every loyal American citizen, and that Francis Wilson should be the one to see that they get their deserts is another source of pride and pleasure to Platte countians. This is no time for anarchists, Pro-Germans, pacifists, fools or traitors, and the sooner every loyal citizen of this country teaches them their place the better will the

country be off. Success attend United States District Attorney Wilson. May he live long to serve his country and ours.—Dearborn Democrat.

## No Loafers or Idlers

It will be no disgrace to be in the drafted army—for only the cream of the land will be selected. It will not be an army of loafers and idlers. The young man who is selected may feel proud for it will show that the government believes him to be one of the 600,000 of the very best of the land—which is an honor.—Fairfax Forum.

## Haven't That Amount in Our Pocket

Uncle Sam has just handed John Bull three hundred million dollars to help out the war. Somehow or other we can't comprehend such a sum. We are not built to take it in. Now if Uncle Sam had handed over three dollars, or even three hundred, we could appreciate it, and say all right, John, glad to help you out, when that's gone we'll dig up some more, but three hundred million, gets away beyond our capacity, believe me.—Elmo Register.

## Just Think It Over

Copenhagen reports that the peace-at-any-price pacifists are kicking up all kinds of a fuss in Germany. They are burning ammunition plants, rioting on the public square, throwing rocks at the city hall and doing all kinds of dare-devil tricks—according to the report from Copenhagen. But do not lose any sleep over it. Just sit down and calmly reflect over the fat chance a pacifist has to kick up a fuss of any kind in Germany.—Kansas City Times.

## What We Are Fighting For?

The man who asks, "What are we fighting for?" is either an ass or an alien to the ideals to which the Republic is devoted. Our flag wantonly insulted, our citizens on peaceful purpose intent murdered, our property destroyed by an enemy who hates and curses everything pertaining to a government of the people by the people—yet the sneering, disloyal question, "What are we fighting for?" If I had my way, the questioner would be sent to the land of the autocratic, merciless German War Lords; his query would then be answered in the only way to still his vicious tongue and make him appreciate the blessings he (undeservedly) enjoys under the Stars and Stripes.—Ironton Register.

## This Showed Real Courage

Two of the above recruits, the deth brothers, are genuine Americanized Germans. They were born in Germany, and many of their relatives, including their father, now reside there. Their father is a reservist in the German army, and is probably now in active service. It takes 100 per cent patriotism to enlist to fight against the armies which include one's own flesh and blood relatives. Shame on the Americans who show the white feather, and cower and shrink from the duty that confronts them; who are ready for the other man and the other man's son to go and fight for the defense of our country's honor and flag, but will not carry their own share of the burden.—Mound City Jeffersonian.

## "For the Love of Mike"

"For the Love of Mike" was the inscription on a collection box at the Maryville Normal school last week and the proceeds, \$10, went for a marble slab to mark the resting place of the school's dog, Mike, mascot of the athletic teams and a general favorite. The dog died while watching a farm class do some spraying. He sampled the arsenate of lead spraying mixture.—Jeffrey news item.

Just such sap-headed rot as this that makes us disgusted with some of the side-lights in our educational system throughout the country. It is a fine thing to be kind to dumb animals when they are alive—and if the students had been half as particular before as they were foolish after "Mike" would still be watching over the destinies of the coming great men and women over the way. The idea of wasting \$10 in such a manner in times like these is a "dog-gone" shame!—Malden Herald.

## Who Should Go to the Front

A group of men were discussing who they would most like see conscripted into the draft army. Judge Wright started out by declaring that every editor should have to go. Then a clin guy who doesn't like onions and likes the smell less thought every barber who eats onions should be put in the trenches without further notice. And the insurance agent was not forgotten, either. Neither was the friend from the city who is spending the summer with yob, board gratis. And the city man wanted the friend from the country who makes a hotel out of his home put in the front rank. The father-in-law who was shipped out of his daughter, an automobile, a farm and \$10,000 knew who he wanted sent. And the oiling committee wanted some disposition made of the man who wouldn't sell them oil so that the town would be dustless this summer.—Fairfax Forum.